

Brian Sammon

February 6, 2023

Options Family & Behavior services

Day treatment services

151 west Burnsville parkway

Burnsville, MN 55337

To Chair Youkim and committee,

The students that we work with are 11-8 years old and have significant mental health and substance abuse issues, most have years of trauma, and some have supportive family systems.

I want to lend my support to the passage of the extended day for educational instruction from licensed school district teachers in the day treatment programs, residential treatment programs and justice system. The students that we work with need the additional structure and lesson time from teachers and in coursework.

The clients we work with are usually behind in their education from 1-5 years, depending on the symptomology and severity of their illness.

They currently get 2.5 hours of education each day (5 days a week) and this amount generally pushes our clients even further behind educationally. Adding additional hours, especially in the summer, would enable many of them to start catching up.

I strongly encourage you to **pass** this legislation.

If you have any questions or need more information, call me at 612-226-7120

Brian Sammon